



FARM BUREAU

NEWS

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

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Statement by Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation, Regarding Introduction of H-2a Reform Bill

"The American Farm Bureau Federation applauds Sens. Larry Craig and Ted Kennedy, and Reps. Chris Cannon and Howard Berman for introducing AgJOBS, a comprehensive measure to reform the H-2a agricultural guest worker program.

"The H-2a program is broken, its minimum wage is out of control, and this is having serious impacts on American agriculture's ability to secure a legal workforce. Passing AgJOBS is vital to addressing this country's widespread farm labor shortage, and also keeping America from losing more of our safe, domestic food supply to imports.

"AgJOBS streamlines H-2a, moves toward a market-based wage, and provides one opportunity for experienced farm workers to earn an adjustment of status if they continue working in agriculture. These provisions will be paramount in maintaining the security of our nation's food supply and will be extremely beneficial to America's farmers and ranchers.

"Farm Bureau urges the Senate and House to pass AgJOBS quickly. It is important to American agriculture and U.S. food security."